**Short Story**

**Legend of Sleepy Hollow**

**Author Biography**

Washington Irving was born in New York City at the end of the Revolutionary War on April 3, 1783. His parents, Scottish-English immigrants, were great admirers of General George Washington, and named their son after their hero.

Irving had many interests including writing, architecture and landscape design, traveling, and diplomacy. He is best known, however, as the first American to make a living solely from writing. Initially, he wrote under pen names. One was "Diedrich Knickerbocker." In 1809, using this pen name, Irving wrote A History of New-York that describes and pokes fun at the lives of the early Dutch settlers of Manhattan. Eventually, this pen name came to mean a person from New York, and is where the basketball team The New York Knickerbockers (Knicks) got its name.

**Summary**

The short story is about a man named Ichabod Crane who moves in a small quiet town called Sleepy Hollow located in New York which is said to have some kind of enchantment. The town’s biggest phenomenon is the ghost of the Headless Horseman who is said to have been a Hessian soldier who lost his head to a cannon ball during the Revolutionary War. The Horseman is seen most often riding by a church, where local historians say he was buried. He is believed to be always in search of his head. Ichabod is fascinated by this story, being especially interested in tales of the supernatural. Ichabod is a teacher who is poorly paid and his main plan was to get married with a beautiful woman named Katrina Van Tassel. One day a messenger invites Ichabod to a party at Van Tassel’s. At the party, he is the best man in the house, and when the party is over he stays behind. For some reason Katrina disappoints him and Ichabod leaves crestfallen. He finds the path home dark and eerily quiet. He tries to keep himself from getting too scared, but soon after he has passed the haunted Major Andre’s tree, he sees a large, dark figure looming nearby. It does not respond to his call, but as he passes by, it starts to move and joins him on the path riding a large, dark horse. Ichabod is greatly disturbed and tries to shake off his pursuer, but he fails. Finally, he notices that the rider has no head on his shoulders; the head seems to be sitting on the saddle in front of the man. Ichabod tries to get his decrepit horse to run home as fast as it can, but he is not a skilled rider and the horse resists. They end up at the church; he sees the horseman and hurls his head at him making him fall of his horse. The next day Ichabod’s horse returns to its owner’s farm and there was no sign of Ichabod.

**Analysis**

**-Phenomenology Theory**

I believe this story has Phenomenology because it talks about a real town having a ghost phenomenon which could turn to be either true or false.

**-Psychoanalytical Theory**

I believe this story has Psychoanalytical theory because it plays with your emotions as the story has happy moments as well as dark and suspense moments, ultimately leaving you in question to what has happened at the end.

**References**

[**http://www.americanliterature.com/Irving/SS/TheLegendofSleepyHollow.html**](http://www.americanliterature.com/Irving/SS/TheLegendofSleepyHollow.html)

[**http://www.gradesaver.com/the-legend-of-sleepy-hollow/study-guide/short-summary/**](http://www.gradesaver.com/the-legend-of-sleepy-hollow/study-guide/short-summary/)

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